

2003

# BEST Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>

Bay Area

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## Coalition Announces 2nd Annual List of The Bay Area's Best Workplaces For Commuters<sup>SM</sup>

*103 organizations, representing more than 188,000 Bay Area employees,  
join EPA's growing list of Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>*

**San Francisco, CA (October 23, 2003)** — The **Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>** Coalition today recognized 103 employers including more than 188,000 employees that qualify for EPA's second annual list of the **Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>**. The list commends Bay Area employers committed to improving quality of life for employees, while at the same time helping to reduce traffic and air pollution. The **Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>** Coalition is a group consisting of Bay Area business, transportation, human resource, and environmental organizations, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In addition to recognizing individual employers this year, the coalition is recognizing two new **Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Districts**: Bishop Ranch Business Park in San Ramon and Hacienda Business Park in Pleasanton. The commuter benefit packages offered by these districts meet a *National Standard of Excellence* and provide 40,000 commuters at over 700 organizations a variety of transportation alternatives and incentives.

"The average annual Bay Area traffic delay per capita for 2001 was 42 hours compared to 26 hours nationally, which in addition to the added pollution and frustration, also produces \$3.4 billion in congestion costs—that's \$835 per person," said Robin Snyder, EPA Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> program manager. "Last year, the **Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>** list included 84 employers, and we're delighted that more than 100 employers qualified for the 2003 list."

New employers that have been designated as 2003 **Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>** include Bayer Corporation, Cisco Systems, City/County of San Francisco, City of Walnut Creek, Ditech Communications, Robert Half International, Mervyn's—Hayward, University of California—San Francisco, and Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance. For a complete list of **Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>** visit <[www.bwc.gov](http://www.bwc.gov)>.

To qualify as one of the **Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>**, organizations must provide:

- At least one primary commuter benefit, which can include a monthly transit/vanpool pass subsidy, cash in lieu of free parking, or a significant telecommuting program.

### The Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Coalition

Bay Area Air Quality Management District • Bay Area Council • Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Northern California Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation  
Northern California Human Resource Association • RIDES for Bay Area Commuters, Inc.  
Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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- At least three supporting commuter benefits, which can include carpool/vanpool incentives, lockers/showers for bikers or walkers, incentives for living near work, or onsite amenities such as day care or dry cleaning.
- A central point of contact for information, who actively informs employees of available commuter benefits.
- Access to a regional or employer-provided Emergency/Guaranteed Ride Home program.

“Cisco is committed to offering programs that assist its employees with commuting while continuing to make the Bay Area a better place to live,” said Mark Golan, vice president, worldwide real estate and workplace resources, Cisco Systems, Inc. “We are honored to be included in the EPA’s list of **Bay Area’s Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>** and will continue to offer programs that encourage our employees to contribute to the health of our community.”

“It’s no surprise that almost 70 percent of the Bay Area’s carbon monoxide comes from motor vehicles, since more than 3.3 million people commute each day in the Bay Area and more than 70 percent of them drive to work alone,” said Michael Cunningham, vice president of the Bay Area Council. “With more and more employers in the Bay Area recognizing the importance of offering commuter benefits, at the end of the day fewer cars on the road mean less stress for employees and a cleaner and healthier Bay Area.”

### About the Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>

The Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> is a free and voluntary program that recognizes employers nationwide that offer a comprehensive package of commuter benefits. Participating organizations must meet a *National Standard of Excellence* as defined by program criteria. The Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> improve employee job satisfaction and save money from reduced payroll taxes. Employees enjoy reduced stress and delays caused by driving alone to work and save money by using employer-provided commuter benefits and reducing use of personal vehicles. Visit <[www.bwc.gov](http://www.bwc.gov)> for more information.

### About the Bay Area’s Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Coalition

The Bay Area’s Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Coalition is composed of leading government and business organizations in the Bay Area working to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, cut global warming emissions, and make commuting less stressful and costly for employers and employees. Members include Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Bay Area Council, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Northern California Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation, Northern California Human Resources Association, RIDES for Bay Area Commuters, Inc., Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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